

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 23
9/17/2015



Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair to good. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Burr Pond, Hatch Pond, Tyler Lake, Congamond Lakes, Candlewood Lake, Lake Housatonic, Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Winchester Lake, Billings Lake, Stateline Pond, Griggs Pond, Dog Pond, Bigelow Pond, Stillwater Lake, Halls Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Silver Lake (Meriden), Red Cedar Lake and Mudge Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (slow to fair, with lots of baitfish to distract bass, 4.65 lb, lunker), Beach Pond (tough), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair action, lunkers include 6.13 lb and 4.1 lb fish), Pachaug Pond (fair fishing, 4.81 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (slow to fair, 4.20 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (fair to good, 4.24 lb lunker but not much else of any size), Highland Lake (fair to good for two clubs, with a really good morning bite and a dull afternoon for one of them, 5.74 lb, 4.69 lb and 4.50 lb lunkers) and Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, 4.12 lb and 3.45 lb lunkers and several other other three3-lb fish).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at West Hill Pond, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake and Highland Lake. River smallies are providing some action on the Housatonic River (Upper), Quinebaug River and Naugatuck River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Highland Lake (a few in the bags) and Lake Lillinonah (fair action, 3.11 lb lunker).

NORTHERN PIKE are showing up in Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake (excellent season).

BLACK CRAPPIE is picking up with reports of fish coming from Lake Saltonstall and Park Pond.

CARP are being caught Batterson Park Pond and West Thompson Reservoir.



SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015. 10 am-4 pm

Back by popular demand! On September 26, 2015 the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources and the sporting community will be at [Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area](#) celebrating the many benefits of hunting and fishing (click on [Hunting & Fishing Day](#) for online information).

Fun activities for all ages are planned, along with educational programs, a live raptor program by Talons, workshops about hunting and fishing, and live music. Best of all, the event is free to attend!

WALLEYE are staging up for the fall bite. Look for deep drop offs and structure. For some action try Squantz Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Beach Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Gardner Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Saugatuck Reservoir or Lake Zoar.

PANFISH are providing excellent late summer action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Small local ponds are often great places, for larger waters try include Dog Pond, Mohawk Pond, Miller Pond, Gorton Pond, Lake Hayward, Babcock Pond, Bishop Swamp Pond, Griggs Pond, Tyler Pond, Crescent Pond, Red Cedar Lake and Long Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions will again be variable this weekend with hot weather to start the weekend and cooler weather to end it and start the work week. Although the recent rain refreshed streams in most areas, there's little to no additional rain in the forecast so flows continue to be well below typical mid-September levels (and dropping further), with the lowest flows generally in eastern CT (see stream flow graphic on page 4).

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River and Housatonic River. Nymphing has been productive lately in medium to high energy areas. Try white, yellow and brown colors and for patterns, White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Long morning hatches of small insects require long leaders and precise casts to unmoving fish.

Farmington River – Fishing continues to be good and the conditions for this weekend should be good. West Branch flows are clear and moderately low, currently 122 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding an additional 16 cfs, and water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F. An 8 foot 6 inch 4-weight fly rod with a 9-12 foot leader and 6X tippet is recommended for current flows.

Hatches/patterns include Tricos (#20-26), *Isonychia bicolor* (#10-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #18, 20-24, mid-late afternoon), Cahill (#12-14), White Fly (#12-14; just after dark), Needhami, Caddis (tan #16-20, all day; green #20-22, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#16-18, mid-day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid-day), Flying Ants (#22-24, mid-day, when windy/humid), and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid-day).

ATTENTION FARMINGTON RIVER USERS.

Is that “didymo” that you may have seen on rocks in the river this summer?



Not exactly –But close. It's *Cymbella janischii* (another diatom).

Cymbella janischii is currently blooming in the West Branch Farmington River in the town of Barkhamsted. *Cymbella janischii* is related to Didymo and forms thick mats (2-4 inches thick) that can cover the substrate. *Cymbella janischii* closely resembles Didymo in that it produces long thin stalks and is commonly lumped as a “rock snot”. To the naked eye, these stalks look light grey, fluffy, and some may form longer “tail-like” strands.

Anglers and all users of the river are urged to follow check, clean, dry methods to reduce the transport of *Cymbella janischii* (and all potential non-native species) from the West Branch Farmington to other waters around the state.

Cymbella janischii is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, where it can also form thick mats, and prior to its discovery in the West Branch Farmington River in 2012, had not been reported east of the Rocky Mountains.

Housatonic River – Trout fishing has been good and conditions for the upcoming weekend should be good. Good weather is forecast, morning water temperatures are now around 60°F (the cool nights that we've been enjoying this week have helped moderate temperatures) and flows are very fishable, clear and moderate (currently 342 cfs at Falls Village and 429 cfs at Gaylordsville). A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended for these flows.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#20-26; go to fly on cloudy/light rain days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Light Cahills (#12-14, evening), Sulfurs (#16-18, evenings), Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), S Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#14-20, mid day, when windy/humid). Try nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Lakes reporting good late summer trout fishing include West Hill Pond, Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Beach Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Following last week's rain flows are now more turbid and higher than typical mid-September levels but are very comfortable for fishing and boating (and it may be easier to get into some of those hard-to-access areas). With no rain in the forecast, flows should continue to drop lower. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action is improving in the coves up and down the river. Target the backwaters with small shiners. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** (some fish up to 4 lbs) are providing action in the river both above Hartford and downstream, where recent catches included a 4.63 lb beauty. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as good in the main stem and coves. Fish have been caught from the Hartford area downstream to Chapman Pond. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught (but you have to work for them) in the Hartford to Haddam area. **CARP** are providing action in coves and in the mainstem (Hartford to Middletown area).

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 10 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch is closed.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed until further notice** due to low water levels. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs was scheduled to begin September 16. Launching of boats will become difficult as levels drop.

MASHAPAUG LAKE (boat launch). The boat launch on Mashapaug Lake (in Bigelow Hollow State Park-Union) is currently scheduled to be closed for line repainting on September 29th and reopening the next day (September 30th).

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

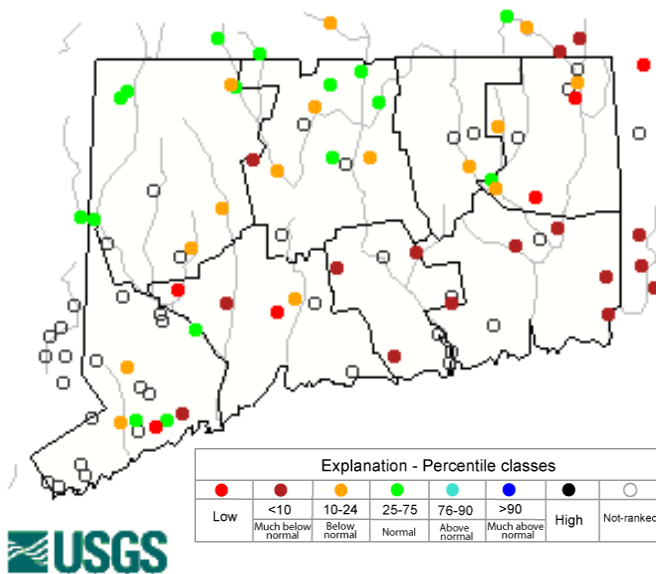
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



Stream flow conditions as of 9/17/2015

Thursday, September 17, 2015 19:00ET



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25th or less are considered to be "below normal".

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



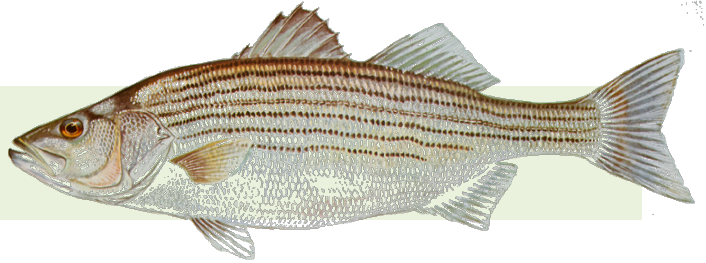
REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the mid to upper 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing is good at many local coastal state parks or public shore fishing access areas, especially in shallow water along the rocks (bass feeding on abundant prey fish). Boat fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor and the upper reaches, West Haven (shore fishing), Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. ***Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and Practice catch and release when possible.***

BLUEFISH fishing continues to be sporadic for large and harbor blues. Also, bluefish ranging from 5 to 15 pounds continue chasing bunker up into harbors and tidal rivers including the Thames River, Connecticut River, upper reaches of New Haven Harbor (West River, Mill River and Quinnipiac River) and the Housatonic River. Other bluefish boat fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Long Sand Shoal, Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Shore spots include Meigs Point



Attention:
OUTDOOR GROUPS/CLUBS/BUSINESSES.

The upcoming **Hunting and Fishing Day**, September 26, 2015 is from 10 am to 4 pm at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management area and DEEP would like to invite you to attend.

There is no charge for the event and you can showcase your group/business/organization with a tabletop display.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Fortin at laurie.fortin@ct.gov.

For more information on the event go to: www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday.

Hammonasset, Ocean Beach State Park (New London), Seaside Park (Bridgeport) and CT Audubon Center (Milford).

HARBOR BLUES (14-20 inches) fishing has really improved throughout lower rivers and bays. Find the birds diving for food and you will find these sub-adult bluefish feeding on snappers or peanut bunker in the lower rivers and estuaries, providing some fast paced fun fishing for anglers (shore and boat).

SNAPPER BLUES fishing continues to be awesome (finally) at many shore locations. Interestingly, they are much larger in the western sound (6-12 inches) when comparing them to the central and eastern sound snappers (4-8 inches). Look for the schools of “peanut” bunker/bait and you will find the snappers.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP (porgy) fishing remains good...but you got to move from spot to spot and find small or major reefs in LIS. Fishing in deeper water (80+ feet) over gnarly bottom is your best bet for bigger black sea bass. Shore fishing spots for scup [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#). These “Panfish of the Sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local [bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide).

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY fishing is getting better from Niantic Bay to Bluff Point. Small tuna have also been reported cruising from Watch Hill to Pine Island (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, and from Bartlett Reef to Black Point. Early morning dawn patrol is the best time to fish for these speedsters!

BLUE CRAB fishing continues to be slow. There are some large “jimmies” (male crabs) being captured (8 inches spike to spike, Niantic and Milford area). **Remember, all egg-bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** For more information please see the [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#) on our website.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON’T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website

<http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler’s Guide](#) for CT tide information.

BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- Link to [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen’s live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

NOTABLE CATCHES:

<i>species</i>	<i>Length (inches)</i>	<i>Weight (lbs)</i>	<i>name</i>
Tautog	23	C&R	James Murphy
Black Sea Bass	21.75	C&R	Alex Erdmann

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2015 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
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Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.